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Opinion • Commentary

The Third Murderer

Chicago.

WHO IS EUGENE HASENFUS? He is the third murderer in "Macbeth." That famous character, formally unaccounted for in the plot, is added to the original two murderers hired by the king. He represents the

By Garry Wills

tendency of shadowy henchmen to multiply, in an attempt to abet and direct tricky operators.

We have seen third murderers conscripted by the White House in other operations. The Mafia approached by the CIA to assassinate Fidel Castro were third murderers. The Cubans brought into the Watergate break-in were third murderers.

When you are waging secret wars, circumventing official policy, setting up dirty tricks, you cannot be terribly choosy about all your instruments. The CIA has been involved in enough shadowy operations to have formed a vast pool, out there, of shady characters who can be called on and who have to be kept track of, since they are likely to be entrepreneurial meddlers and mercenaries.

It is good to give such people work of your own: if nothing else, to keep them out of other mischief. The CIA is, among other things, an employment agency for boys who want to play soldier for the rest of their lives.

Thus Mr. Hasenfus's director in his air operation, a friend of Vice President Bush, was a

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TO RUN
SUPPLIES
INTO VIET
NAM?

WORKED
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OUR SHAM
AIRLINE?



HASENFUS...
HASENFUS...
TALL, HEFTY FELLOW
FROM WISCONSIN?



veteran of the Bay of Pigs, that great CIA bungle that left us so many heritages, including Operation Mongoose, the CIA plan involving the Mafia.

The vice president calls this Bay-of-Pigger a "great patriot," but what country is he patriotic to? Under one of his several names, he seems to have been a Cuban, an American, a Salvadoran employee and a Nicaraguan "freedom fighter." He is a professional freebooter, a third murderer.

It is the business of the third murderer to make sure the other two are not traced back to their employer, the king himself. In that, Mr. Hasenfus has been a failure. He did the talking he is supposed to prevent. Naturally, the king of America denies responsibility in his case — though his flight was made from American military airports, in a plane used on earlier CIA business. The denial of this mission is on a level with the espousal of a fake mission against Libya that was mounted by the White House's designated disinformers, John Poindexter.

Where has the money been coming from to pay our shadowy army of mercenaries? One source in the *New York Times* has just reported it is the Saudi government. In a deal with the CIA's William Casey, the Saudis funneled money to CIA operations in return for the AWACS surveillance planes we gave them in 1981. Even foreign countries can become third murderers in

the White House's desperation to keep a war running that the Congress tried to inhibit.

Congressional authority over war-making is a constitutional arrangement. That is what the White House has been sabotaging, directly, indirectly, with "private" agencies and lies. The murder to which so many recruits gather and lend a hand is the murder of the Constitution.

NOPE.
WE DON'T
KNOW HIM.



Mike Kelley THE DENIAL POST '86